

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03742 051012Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 050848Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REACTION TO THINNING-OUT OF ISRAELI SUEZ
FORCES

1. SUMMARY: GOJ-SPONSORED PRESS ON TWO CONSECUTIVE
DAYS DENOUNCED THINNING OUT OF ISRAELI TROOPS ON SUEZ
LINE AS PROPAGANDA TRICK. JORDAN PUBLIC HAS SIMILARLY
DISMISSED MOVE, ALTHOUGH WITH LESS FERVOR THAN PRESS.
END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH TREATING IT AS FRONT-PAGE NEWS, GOJ-
SPONSORED DAILIES AR-RAYY (JUNE 3) AND AD-DUSTOUR
(JUNE 4) HAVE EDITORIALY DENOUNCED ISRAELI SUEZ
TROOP REDUCTION. AR-RAYY: "THE THINNING...IS A
PROPAGANDA STUNT DESIGNED TO OFFSET THE EFFECTS OF
THE REOPENING OF THE CANAL AND...TO JUSTIFY A
CONTINUATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT SITUATION. THE
ISRAELI FORCES IN THE AREA ARE ALREADY SMALL IN
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03742 051012Z

NUMBER AND ARE MEANT ONLY AS OBSERVATION PERSONNEL.

THUS REDUCING THEIR NUMBER HAS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AT ALL...THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TANKS MEANS 15 ISRAELI TANKS WILL BACK UP 200 METERS. PULLING BACK SIX ARTILLERY BATTERIES MEANS NOTHING BECAUSE THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT DOES NOT PERMIT THE PRESENCE OF HEAVY GUNS WHOSE RANGE COVERS THE CANAL AREA. PULLING BACK ROCKETS FOR 10 KMS HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE, SINCE 10 KMS MEANS ONLY CENTIMETERS IN TERMS OF ROCKETS...RABIN'S COMMENTS (THAT ISRAELI SHIPS SHOULD BE ALLOWED PASSAGE THROUGH CANAL) REPRESENT A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION, SINCE THE ARAB BOYCOTT RULES PROHIBIT THE PASSAGE OF SUCH GOODS..."

3. AD-DUSTOUR, UNDER TITLE "TACTICAL STEP": "THE THINNING OUT HAS VARIOUS MOTIVES, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS TO ATTEMPT TO BRING ISRAEL OUT OF THE POLITICAL ISOLATION WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON HER AND WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE AFTER THE OPENING OF THE CANAL...THIS THEATRICAL MOVE IS INTENDED TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF WORLD OPINION FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE CANAL. ISRAEL WANTS THE WORLD TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS CEDING SOMETHING, THUS MANIFESTING GOOD INTENTIONS, WHILE IN FACT THIS MOVE IS MEANT TO ALLEVIATE THE BURDEN OF THE ISRAELI ARMY ON THE VAST SINAI FRONT. WE EXPECT RABIN TO USE THIS GESTURE AS HIS TRUMP CARD IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD." EDITORIAL FURTHER NOTES THAT IN ANY CASE, BASIC PROBLEM OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS PERSISTS.

4. JORDANIAN PUBLIC HAS TAKEN LITTLE NOTICE OF OPERATION IN SPITE OF ZEALOTRY PRESENT IN THE EDITORIALS. SEVERAL POLITICALLY-AWARE EMBASSY CONTACTS WERE UNAWARE OF MOVE. THOSE WHO EXPRESSED OPINION BRUSHED OFF REDUCTION AS POLITICAL MANEUVER WITH NO MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE.
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